



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

ment of special students to assist in working up the wealth of material accumulated. Since its transference to the custody of the University the herbarium has had but two curators, the late Charles Wright and Dr. Sereno Watson.

---

### National Herbarium at Washington.

GEORGE VASEY.

This Herbarium was organized in 1869. It was based upon the Government collections which had for many years been accumulating in the Smithsonian Institution, from which they were transferred in the original packages to the Department of Agriculture, to be prepared and mounted, so that they might be accessible for investigation. These collections were principally as follows:

Those of the U. S. Exploring Expedition under Commodore Wilkes from 1838 to 1842. Those of the U. S. North Pacific Ex. Expedition under Commanders Ringgold and Rogers from 1853 to 1856. A small lot from Commodore Perry's Expedition to Japan in 1856. A portion of Fendler's collections on the Isthmus of Panama in 1850. A collection of Berlandier's plants of Texas and Mexico, made from 1828 to 1830. Lindheimer's Texas Collection of 1846. The large collections of Mr. Charles Wright in Texas and New Mexico from 1849 to 1852. The Collections of the U. S. and Mexican Boundary Commission, and those of the Surveys for Railway route to the Pacific made in 1853 and 1854 by Lieuts. Whipple, Parke, Williamson, and Fremont, and Gov. Stevens of Oregon. A collection made by Lieut. Ives on the Exploration of the Colorado River in 1857 and 1858. Collections made in Alaska by Dr. Rothrock, Dr. Kellogg and others.

Of foreign collections, numerous packages contributed by the Imperial Botanic Garden and Herbarium of St. Petersburg, containing not only plants of Russia, Siberia and Turkestan, but also many from Brazil and Japan. Numerous packages mostly of European plants, from the Royal Herbarium at Kew, England. Other European collections from Paul Reinsch and Mr. A. Schott of Germany, Mr. Karl Keck of Austria, Dr. Lager, Switzerland, and Prof. Boeck of Norway. The large and valuable Cuban collections of Mr. Chas. Wright in 1865 and 1869. The collections of the San Domingo Commission in 1871.

To these have since been added the plants collected under the

different Geological and Geographical Surveys of Lieuts. Wheeler and Hayden and of Major Powell. A set of the plants of California collected by Kellogg and Harford in 1868 and 1869. Various sets collected by Mr. J. G. Lemmon in California and Arizona; of Messrs. Howell and Cusick in Oregon; of Mr. W. N. Suksdorf in Washington Territory; of Mr. G. R. Vasey in Washington Terr., California, Arizona and New Mexico; of Mr. C. G. Pringle in California, Arizona and Mexico; of Dr. E. Palmer in Mexico, Arizona and Utah; of Drs. Parry and Palmer in Mexico; of Mr. C. R. Orcutt of San Diego; of the Parish Brothers in Southern California; the collection of G. R. Vasey in Alabama and North Carolina; and the numerous fascicles of Prof. A. H. Curtiss of Florida, those of Mr. J. Reverchon of Texas, and numerous contributions from the south and west. Also of recent foreign collections obtained by purchase, exchange or contribution, plants of Sweden collected by Mr. Oldberg; plants of France, Italy and Algiers, also a set of Bourgeau's plants of Mexico, collected in 1865-'66, from the Herb. Museum of Paris; and the large European collection of Mr. J. Moggridge communicated through Dr. Gray; and portions of the collection of the late J. Gay of France.

The plants of the eastern portion of the United States are represented by a set from the collection of Mr. Oakes of New England; plants of Pennsylvania from Prof. Porter, Mr. J. MacMinn, and Dr. Garber, together with minor contributions, exchanges and large local collections.

Colorado plants are represented by some of the collections of E. Hall, and of H. N. Patterson and G. W. Letterman, besides those of the government collectors.

Of special collections there is a set of the Juncaceæ of the U. S. by Dr. G. Engelmann; the Carices Boreali-Americanæ by Prof. Olney; the ferns of Trinidad by Mr. A. Fendler, and a type set of N. Amer. Willows by Mr. Bebb.

Of mosses there are the large European collections from Mr. R. Oldberg, Dr. Gattinger, Paul Reinsch, and others, as well as the mosses collected on the Wilkes' Exploring Expedition, elaborated by Mr. W. S. Sullivant, and a set of the Musci Alleghaniensis of Mr. Austin.

Of lichens there is a considerably large collection from the various expeditions and surveys of the government, supplemented by donations from Mr. J. Wolf, Dr. Ravenel of South Carolina, and some centuries of the European collections of Rabenhorst and Fries.

The Algæ of the Herbarium are largely those of the Wilkes'

and the North Pacific Expeditions, with additions chiefly from foreign sources.

The mycological collection contains Ravenel's *Fungi Americani exsiccata*, Ravenel's *Fungi Caroliniani*, Ravenel's Texas Collection, Ellis' North American Fungi, a large collection by the late G. W. Clinton of Buffalo, New York, a small collection of New England Fungi by Dr. B. D. Halsted, communicated by Prof. C. V. Riley. Recent additions are from M. E. Jones, 60 species; from E. W. D. Holoway, Iowa, 125 species; from Prof. W. A. Kellerman, 350 species, chiefly from Kansas and Ohio; and from T. J. Burrill, 11 species, the types of his new species of *Uredinæ*, and many interesting and valuable specimens from Rev. A. B. Langlois of Louisiana.

All these collections of fungi have been mounted on sheets of herbarium size, a single species on a sheet, with space for the addition of specimens from various localities or different hosts. There are 150 mounted sheets of *Puccinia*, representing nearly as many species, 50 sheets of *Hypoxylon*, 75 of *Cercospora*, 35 of *Phyllosticta*, 30 of *Peronospora*, 20 of *Ustilago*, and 7 of *Tilletia*. The foreign collection is as yet small, represented chiefly by six centuries of Rabenhorst's *Herbarium Mycologicum*.

The Herbarium was for nearly three years under the care of Dr. C. C. Parry, who gave unremitting attention to the mounting of the specimens and to their arrangement in the cases. Since April, 1872, it has been in the charge of Dr. Geo. Vasey, and has grown to large proportions.

It is located on the second floor of the Agricultural building, occupying four rooms, the largest two being devoted to the cases for the mounted plants. One room is occupied by Prof. F. L. Scribner, the assistant botanist, and devoted to the mycological collections and mycological investigations. The fourth room is for preparing specimens, and for sorting and distributing duplicates, etc.

The two rooms occupied by the cases are twelve feet high, well lighted and comfortable. The cases occupy more than eighty feet in length, with a height of nine feet, and are divided for the reception of specimens into spaces or shelves, thirteen inches wide, eighteen inches deep and six inches high. There are more than 1,300 shelves or spaces. Each shelf or space is furnished with a pasteboard cover to which is hinged a flap five inches high, which drops in front of the specimens, excluding them from light and dust, and also furnishing a place for appropriate labels of the natural orders and the genus or genera which are contained in that space.

The arrangement of the specimens is in accordance with the *Genera Plantarum* of Bentham and Hooker. The number of shelves or spaces occupied by the larger natural orders is about as follows: Ranunculaceæ 12, Cruciferae 20, Caryophyllaceæ 12, Malvaceæ 12, Leguminosæ 80, Rosaceæ 35, Onagraceæ 14, Umbelliferae 20, Rubiaceæ 16, Compositæ 180, Ericaceæ 18, Borraginaceæ 14, Solanaceæ 12, Scrophulariaceæ 25, Labiatae 24, Polygonaceæ 18, Euphorbiaceæ 15, Cupuliferæ 16, Coniferae 20, Liliaceæ 22, Cyperaceæ 36, Gramineæ 120, Filices 40.

No complete catalogue of the plants has been made, but it is estimated that of the 10,000 or more species of the United States (excluding the cellular cryptogams) there are represented about nine-tenths. Of foreign plants the Herbarium contains probably fully as many species as of native ones.

The native species are represented in many cases by a large number of specimens showing the range of the species, derived from important government surveys and expeditions, which gives them an historic value, as well as representing the types upon which the species were founded. The entire number of mounted sheets is from sixty to seventy thousand.

The Library connected with the Herbarium contains all the common North American botanical text-books and manuals, all the United States government reports, most of the other larger works relating to the flora of this country, and nearly all the large systematic works published in English or Latin. These pertain especially to flowering plants and ferns, few important accessions on the cellular cryptogams having yet been received.

The Herbarium and Library are at all times accessible, during business hours, to students and investigators, and is well worthy of the attention of specialists and botanists who may visit Washington.

---

## BRIEFER ARTICLES.

**Articles in back numbers.**—Arrangement of herbaria, xi. 98,120; treatment of exsiccatae, xi. 20; mounting plants, cement, ix. 62, glue, iv. 215, xi. 67,120; preserving plants, carbon bisulphide, ii. 100, poison, i. 27; pressure in making specimens, i. 21; shipping live plants, ii. 107, 133; Myxomycetes, their collection and preservation, x. 290.

**Mounting delicate plants.**—To mount delicate ferns and other plants, take a pane of glass of sufficient size and coat lightly with rather thin fish glue. Lay the plant on the glass and put a newspaper over it, or the reverse. With handkerchief in hand, rub the paper so that every part of the plant will touch the glue. Remove the paper, then carefully lift the plant from the glass and